



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Yates, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Chairman
Greg Adams, L.A. County Sanitation District
Paul Avila, P.B.A. & Associates
Geoffrey Blake, Metal Finishers of Southern California/All Metals
Todd Campbell, Clean Energy
Daniel Cunningham, Metal Finishing Association
Jacob Haik, Office of School Board Member Richard Vladovic
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications
Art Montez, AMA International
Kelly Moulton, Paralegal
Steve Mugg, South Orange County Representative, City of Mission Viejo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Loveridge, AQMD Governing Board Member, LGSBA Vice Chairman
Felipe Aguirre, Vice Mayor, City of Maywood
Eric Busch, Representative, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
James R. Krausz, Esq., ALA Inland Counties
Angelo Logan, East Yard Communities for EJ
Todd Priest, Representative, Orange County Business Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Earl Elrod, Board Member Assistant (*Yates*)
Sima Patel, Board Assistant Consultant (*Uranga*)
Lisa Rothbart, Orange County Sanitation District

AQMD STAFF:

Joe Cassmassi, Planning and Rules Manager
Philip Crabbe, Community Relations Manager
Deanna Doerr, Office Assistant
Anupom Ganguli, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor
Carol Gomez, Planning and Rules Manager
Henry Hogo, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer
Kathryn Higgins, Program Supervisor
Nicole Mendoza, Secretary
John Olvera, Principal Deputy District Counsel
Greg Ushijima, AQ Engineer II

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Chair Dennis Yates called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of September 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes/Review of Follow-Up/Action Items

Chair Yates called for approval of the meeting minutes.

The September 18, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Action Item: Forward to Advisory Group members via email information regarding the SCAG regional workshop of November 18, 2009.
Completed as requested.

Action Item: A list of no or low emitting VOC trees will be provided as an attachment to the Minutes of the September 18, 2009 meeting.
Completed as requested.

Agenda Item #3 – Update on State and Federal Regulatory Activities

Mr. Henry Hogo gave an update on recent and future state and federal regulatory activities on mobile sources, including U.S. EPA's recently proposed regulation for oceangoing marine vessels.

Chair Yates asked if AQMD's fleet rule has authority over school buses. Mr. Hogo confirmed this. Chair Yates asked why he still sees smoking diesel school buses. Mr. Hogo replied that the rule applies based on the purchase date of new buses and also depends on the availability of public funding for school buses.

Mr. Todd Campbell asked if there has been any discussion of blending hydrogen with natural gas for portions of the bus fleet instead of delaying zero-emission bus requirements for the Transit Bus Rule under CARB, so transit agencies can get closer to a zero-emission future. Mr. Hogo replied that the discussion has been going in the direction of hybridized systems that are close to zero that can be natural gas or hydrogen based, but at this time they are not looking at pure fuel cell vehicles or buses. Mr. Campbell asked if that means they are moving away from hydrogen. Mr. Hogo replied that it's still an option.

Agenda Item #4 – Status Report on PM10 Redesignation Requests

Mr. Joe Cassmassi reviewed proposed requests to U.S. EPA to redesignate the Basin and Coachella Valley as attainment for PM10.

Mr. Greg Adams asked if the Torres Martinez Tribe ever asked for AQMD's advice when placing their air monitor. Mr. Cassmassi replied that the monitoring site was originally set up for ozone where dust issues weren't a consideration. He added that the district did not have any say in where the monitor was placed, which is a poor monitoring location.

Dr. Ganguli asked how much of the dust in the Coachella Valley is PM10. Mr. Cassmassi replied that most of it is PM10. Dr. Ganguli asked about the composition of dust plumes near the tracks. Mr. Cassmassi replied that it is re-entrained dirt from a dirt road right in front of the

monitor. He continued to say PM2.5 is not an issue in the Coachella Valley because there are large particles associated with construction or agriculture.

Mr. Adams asked if AQMD and EPA could work together and find a mutually agreeable new area for the monitor. Mr. Cassmassi replied that the Mobile Source Committee is looking into arranging alternative monitoring sites in the area and have considered a nearby school that is not surrounded by dirt. Mr. Adams further asked if the monitor was the only “rogue monitor” in the basin. Mr. Cassmassi replied that it is the only “rogue monitor” they’ve encountered.

Mr. Art Montez commented about a treatment that farmers put on dirt roads which seems to him to be a cheaper solution than to pay people to look at the problem. Mr. Cassmassi replied that there is a chemical surfactant that can be put on dirt roads and is used by gravel and cement manufacturers. He added that soil stabilization has been used in the Coachella Valley to reduce dust and noted that this one monitor is not representative of the whole valley.

Agenda Item #5 – Annual Report on AB 2766 Funds from Motor Vehicle Registration Fees for FY 2007-2008

Ms. Kathryn Higgins reported on data collected on the AB 2766 Subvention Fund Program for FY 2007-2008.

Mr. Montez asked how the funds get to cities and counties. Chair Yates replied that the funds come from the State, come to AQMD monthly, and AQMD sends the funds on a quarterly basis to the participating cities and counties. Mr. Montez asked if there is a profile or matrix that tells how much money each city and county has. Ms. Higgins said the full staff report details everything. Mr. Montez asked if the staff report is online. Ms. Higgins replied that the staff report was just approved on Friday at the Governing Board meeting. Mr. Montez asked what a soft earmark is. Ms. Higgins replied that cities or counties designate projects for which the funding may be used, but do not necessarily get support from their city counsels or Board of Supervisors. Therefore, jurisdictions may not follow through on implementing those projects. Dr. Ganguli commented that a couple years ago, staff met with elected officials to increase their understanding about the funds and added that staff will repeat this outreach.

Chair Yates noted that during the last audit they caught some cities spending the fund money on things that they were not supposed to and asked if they had to reimburse it. Ms. Higgins responded that they did.

Ms. Kelly Moulton asked if there is a website that cities can access for information on credible projects. Ms. Higgins said there are staff reports available on AQMD’s website that date back to 2001-2002. Ms. Moulton asked if there is help available for new staff members because as staff leaves, the information leaves with them. Ms. Higgins replied that AQMD staff is available to meet new city staff one on one to guide them through the process. Ms. Moulton asked if there was training materials available online. Ms. Higgins replied that Council of Governments (COG) staff and local government representatives are invited to attend one of as many as ten hands on training sessions a year conducted by AQMD staff.

Mr. Montez asked if there were already AQMD programs set aside for vehicles in response to the slide showing 31% of the monies being spent on alternative fuel vehicles. Chair Yates replied that they can sometimes access funds for alternative fuel vehicles through the Mobile Source Air

Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC) or the Carl Moyer Program. Mr. Montez asked if the Carl Moyer Program can be used with the AB 2766 funds. Chair Yates replied that funds from the Carl Moyer Program and MSRC can be used with matching funds for heavy duty vehicles and help with the fueling infrastructure. Mr. Montez asked if you can use the AB 2766 funds to match the Carl Moyer funds. Chair Yates replied that it depends on what you are going to buy since MSRC is for large off-road vehicles and Carl Moyer is for heavy-duty on-road vehicles.

Mr. Adams asked where the emission reductions from the grant programs are being reported in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and whether AQMD gets credit for implementing these programs. Ms. Higgins replied that credit for those reductions, such as Rule 2202, are taken into account in the AQMP. She added that the program itself is not credited separately because it goes toward the total SIP line item. Mr. Adams asked specifically where there is a table showing where AQMD gets credit for these programs in the SIP. Ms. Higgins replied that the credits are lumped in with other TDM type programs (such as Transportation Control Measures) that come from the Southern California Association of Governments. Ms. Carol Gomez added that Rule 2202 is in the baseline not the SIP and there is no separate line item. Ms. Higgins further added that it is counted but there is no line item because the program reductions are minuscule in terms of the overall reductions that will occur, so its accounted in the baseline. Mr. Adams asked if there is a standard video for the training. Ms. Higgins replied that she wishes it were that easy but since the information is so different from city to city, a general video might be doing more harm than good without being able to fully explain city specific information. Mr. Adams said the video could cover the fundamentals that would apply to everybody. Dr. Ganguli replied that staff can look into more of a general introduction video.

Mr. Jacob Haik suggested a one page letter to all elected officials telling them the funds are available. Ms. Higgins replied that this was done in the past with limited responses.

Agenda Item #6 – Update on Environmental Justice Advisory Group

Item postponed to next month.

Agenda Item #7 – Monthly Report on Small Business Assistance Activities

No comments.

Agenda Item #8 – Update on Climate Change Activities (Written Report)

Ms. Whynot provided a written report update on climate change activities.

Agenda Item #9 - Other Business

No comments.

Agenda Item #10 - Public Comment

Mr. Adams asked about the status of SB 827 and the other bills. Chair Yates replied that he heard if the delta water solution isn't resolved by the end of the week the Governor is going to veto all the bills. Mr. Adams asked if there is anything they can do, to which, Chair Yates responded there wasn't.

Agenda Item #11 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.